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# For Immediate Release



City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057

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## **City of Renton participates in regional 'One Night Count' effort Staff, volunteers join to count homeless in Renton**

Renton: The City of Renton will join the regional effort to end homelessness. During the early morning hours of January 26, 2007, city staff and volunteers will walk through Renton to count the homeless in the community. The One Night Count effort is lead by Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH), with support from Operation Nightwatch and the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH). In Renton, the city is partnering with Vision House, Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH), ARISE (Area Renton Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation), YWCA and several volunteers.

"The first step in solving a problem is defining the problem," says Renton Mayor Kathy Keolker. "By finding out exactly how many are homeless in Renton, we cement our resolve to end homelessness."

Renton's Comprehensive Plan specifically outlines a goal to create a community in which all members have the opportunity to meet their basic needs. This goal is consistent with King County's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, which is why Renton is enthusiastically partnering with them in this endeavor.

In 2002, Renton joined organizations, businesses, and local governments from around the county to form the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, a unified effort to provide vision and leadership to end homelessness. Renton is participating in the One Night Count for the first time this year. Bill Block, Director of the Committee to End Homelessness, will be on hand to give opening remarks, and join a team of counters as they look for people surviving outdoors in Renton.

Renton's count will begin at the Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Avenue N. For photo and interview opportunities during the count please contact Nicole Macri,

(more)

co-chair Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness at 206-515-1514 or at 206-313-3751. For more information on Renton's program contact Karen Bergsvik at 425-430-6652.

